



OSAGE COUNTY OIL AND GAS EIS
*Providing Comments
on the Draft EIS*

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The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office has released a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). A 45-day public comment period began with the official announcement in the Federal Register on November 6, 2015. The DEIS is available on the project website, <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/RegionalOffices/EasternOklahoma/WeAre/Osage/OSAGEOilGasEIS/>. The BIA is seeking public input on this draft document.

WHY PUBLIC COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT

This is an opportunity for you to be involved in the BIA's decision-making process and to offer your thoughts on alternative ways for the agency to accomplish what it is proposing, and to offer your comments on the agency's analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives and possible mitigation of potential harmful effects of such actions.

The National Environmental Policy Act "... is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on the understanding of environmental consequences..." (40 CFR 1501(c)). To achieve this, the EIS considers the effects of our actions on economic and natural resources within the planning area. Citizens, such as yourself, often have valuable information about places and resources they consider important and the potential effects proposed federal actions may have on those places and resources.

PROVIDING EFFECTIVE COMMENTS

Comments that provide relevant and new information with sufficient detail are most useful and are referred to as substantive comments. The BIA reviews all comments and identify the topics that are substantive for consideration in the final published document. Try not to provide comments that offer opinion only.

Substantive comments do one or more of the following:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the EIS
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis
- Present new information relevant to the analysis
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the EIS
- Cause changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives

Comments that are not substantive include:

- Comments in favor of or against an action without any reasoning (such as "I don't like ____" without providing any rationale)
- Comments that only agree or disagree with BIA policy

Please submit comments by
December 24, 2015¹

Comments can be mailed to:
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Comments can also be emailed
to:
osagecountyoilandgaseis@bia.gov

¹ The official 45-day comment period ends on December 21, 2015. Due to public concern, the BIA will accept comments until December 24, 2015.